



HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 1, 2006

Good afternoon Chairman Tam and members of the committee on Public Works and Economic Development. I am testifying today in support of Resolution 06-015, urging the State Department of Health to conduct a public hearing on the application for a Section 401 water quality certification by the developer of the "The Woods at Ahuimanu," proposed development in Kahalu'u. Thank you for allowing me to testify on this issue. I would like to share some of the following concerns for your consideration.

First off I would like to make clear that the developers of "The Woods at Ahuimanu" have not ensured the community that their plan for development has adequately addressed the abundance of rainfall in Ahuimanu Valley. Records show that the city of Kāne'ohe had 247 consecutive days of rainfall from August 1993 to April 1994. Ahuimanu is an area where the soil does not discharge or drain liquids expeditiously. This creates for poor cesspool drainage not only at the residential level, but at all levels of development. It is conceivable, however to realize the rather disastrous effects of poor cesspool drainage for a development of the magnitude of "The Woods at Ahuimanu." It is also reasonable to argue that a development of this size would be a significant health hazard considering the cesspool overflows frequently occurring in Kahalu'u.

I would also like to bring to your attention an example of negligence in not realizing the natural condition of proposed development lands. Kahalu'u Regional Park has long been a dream for many residents of the area, however, it has been two decades and the project has yet to be completed. The park was expected to open in 2003 but drainage issues due to poor soil conditions have postponed the project. The city is now saying that it will take 8 additional months to fix the drainage problem that is believed to be caused by clay soil in the area. This type of soil doesn't drain well and now the city must completely redo the field. \$1.25 Million has been budgeted to design a new drainage system. As you can see, this is a problem that would not have occurred had planners been conscious of the environmental conditions of the soil in the proposed development area.

There has also been a report on the recent contamination warnings at Kualoa Beach park where "multiple tests of water at the city park showed higher bacteria levels than state standards." The tests show high levels of bacteria that indicate the presence of human or animal feces. The cause of the contamination is believed to be the leakage of sewage from three open restrooms at the City Park. If these high levels of bacteria are dangerous enough to convince the health department that residence should not be in the water, it is appalling to imagine magnitude of contamination a development such as "The Woods at Ahuimanu" would bring to the areas surrounding the proposed plans.

It is logical that we should reconsider the proposed development of "The Woods at Ahuimanu" because of the heavy rain, soil conditions and the effect that it has on the sewage system. It is for these reasons that I am in support of Resolution 06-015. Please allow the public to voice their concerns on this matter.

Mahalo,

Senator Clayton Hee

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